APR 1 1 200 B

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEO 4

ATTY.'S DOCKET: HARTAL=1B

In re Application of:

Art Unit: 1761

Dov HARTAL et al.

Examiner: C. SHERRER

Appln. No.: 09/449,093

Washington, D.C.

Date Filed: November 24, 1999)

Confirmation No.

For: NATURAL COLORING PRODUCTS )

April 11, 2001

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT FOR RCE

Honorable Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please further amend the above -identified application as follows:

## IN THE CLAIMS

Add new claim 44 as follows:

--44. (New) A red coloring material comprising the color-imparting agent,

chromoplast particles encapsulating crystalline lycopene,

wherein said chromoplast particles are particles separated from a fruit which contained them, and

wherein the coloring material comprises from 500 to  $0.000\,\mathrm{ppm}$  of said chromoplast particles encapsulating crystalline lycopene,

BI